

# INVESTIGATIVE Operations

**T**he Investigative Division is the largest division of the GBI and is primarily responsible for assisting the more than 600 local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of crimes committed in Georgia. The deputy director for investigations supervises the division with a command staff of four inspectors.

---

## REGIONAL Offices

**S**pecial agents assigned to the 15 regional investigative offices regularly assist local law enforcement and district attorneys with the investigation of major crimes, such as homicide, child abuse, rape, armed robbery, theft and drug

enforcement.

Consistent with recent years, the Investigative Division has placed its greatest concentration of resources on the investigation of violent crimes against persons.

### Command Staff



**Kent E. Wilson**  
Deputy Director



**Robert Hardin**  
Inspector



**Joe Jackson**  
Inspector



**Russell Andrews**  
Inspector



**Lee Sweat**  
Inspector

## FY'05: Investigative Hours Expended

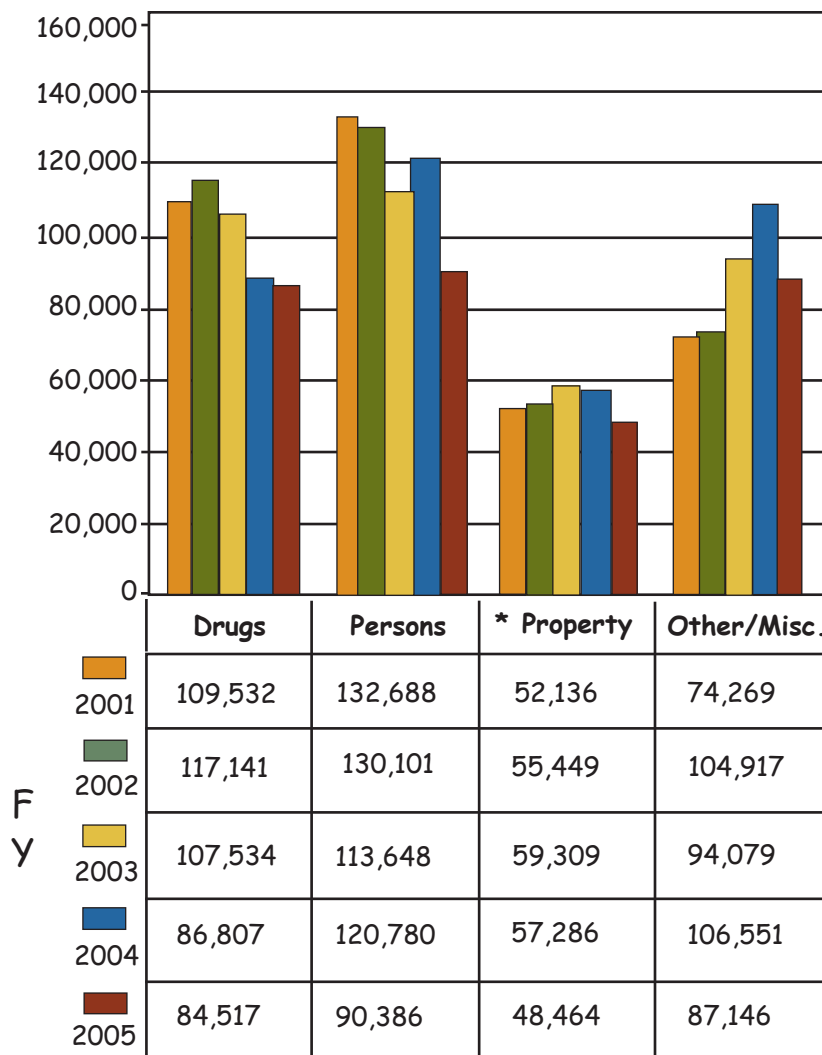
### Crimes Against Persons

Death Investigations.....	45,265
Child Abuse.....	20,565
Crime Scene.....	15,841
Assault.....	10,603
EOD.....	7,442
Sex Crimes.....	6,760
Robbery.....	3,672
Terroristic Acts.....	3,049
Public Corruption.....	2,352
Kidnapping.....	473
Crime Analysis.....	357

### Property Crimes

Theft.....	41,122
Burglary.....	2,714
Forgery.....	3,638
Arson.....	593
Vehicle Theft.....	265
Criminal Damage.....	132

## FY'01-FY'05: Investigative Hours Expended



\* Property crimes includes theft and fraud

# DRUG Enforcement

Three GBI regional drug enforcement offices, along with the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the State Drug Task Force, and GBI supervised multi-jurisdictional task forces work to combat illegal drug activity throughout Georgia. Personnel in these offices often work in conjunction with other state, local and federal law enforcement agencies.

## REGIONAL DRUG OFFICES

The GBI's drug enforcement efforts are led by three regional drug enforcement offices (RDEOs) located in Canton, Savannah and Macon. The offices oversee drug investigations in 97 counties. The drug-related investigative activity generated during FY'05 in the three regional drug enforcement offices, 15 regional investigative offices, and by the State Drug Task Force is depicted as follows:

- Seized \$12,682,038 in contraband
- Initiated 845 drug investigations
- Expended 84,517 agent hours.

## DRUG TASK FORCES

The GBI participates in 13 multi-jurisdictional task force (MJTF) programs focused on drug enforcement. These work units include traditional drug task force programs statewide, and the federally-funded High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, which is located in Atlanta. Effective July 1, 2005, the management of HIDTA was turned over to the Atlanta Police Department. Drug task forces are staffed by GBI personnel as well as members of other law enforcement agencies.

During FY'05, MJTFs:

- Initiated 3,732 investigations
- Arrested 2,921 offenders
- Made drug seizures valuing \$23,487,241.

### Drug Enforcement

Canton RDEO

Macon RDEO

Savannah RDEO

Appalachian MJTF

Altamaha MJTF

Cherokee Multi-  
Agency Narcotics  
Squad

East Central Georgia  
DTF

West Georgia MJTF

Pataula MJTF

South Georgia DTF

Haralson-Paulding  
DTF

Tri-Circuit MJTF

Ocmulgee MJTF

Oconee Dublin MJTF

Piedmont-Northern

State Drug Task Force

High-Intensity Drug  
Trafficking Area

# SPECIALIZED Units

The GBI specialized work units play vital roles in the daily operations of the Investigative Division. The units support other GBI offices and local criminal justice agencies in specialized areas of expertise.

## STATE HEALTH CARE FRAUD CONTROL UNIT

The State Health Care Fraud Control Unit (SHCFCU) is staffed with prosecutors from the Department of Law; auditors from the Department of Audits; special financial investigators, special agents and criminal intelligence analysts from the GBI; and requisite support staff. The unit's function is to identify, arrest and prosecute

providers of health care services who defraud the Medicaid program.

In addition, the unit is tasked with investigating allegations of abuse and neglect involving patients who receive care at Medicaid-funded health care facilities such as nursing homes.

## FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Financial Investigations Unit (FIU) provides investigative support to other GBI work units and criminal justice agencies throughout Georgia in the areas of financial- and computer-related crimes.

Because FIU is primarily an investigative support unit, its statistics relating to arrests, stolen and recov-

ered property, as well as seized contraband are often reported by other GBI work units. Therefore, the statistics are not reported by FIU even though FIU personnel contributed significantly to the resolution of these cases. The unit routinely assists in conducting major corruption cases, which often involve public officials. It also conducts evidence

retrieval/processing services involving computers that are believed to contain evidence related to various crimes.

FIU initiated 269 cases during FY'05 and continues to lead the state by developing strategies and expertise to combat computer crimes.

The GBI views computer-oriented crimes as a rapidly emerging and highly techni-

### Specialized Work Units

Financial Investigations  
Unit (FIU)

State Health Care  
Fraud Control Unit  
(SHCFCU)

Special Operations Unit  
(SOU)

Intelligence Unit

Training Unit

Polygraph Unit

Accreditation

Investigative Staff  
Services

Communication Center

cal area of law enforcement that will require significant growth in resources and capabilities. FIU is uniquely positioned to lead this effort and to develop additional resources aimed at combating these crimes.

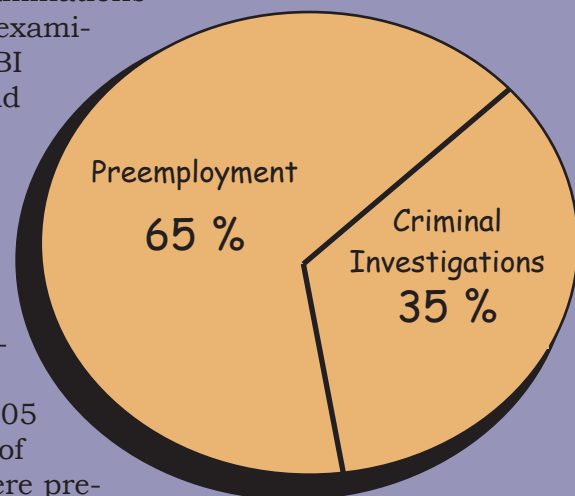
FIU is responsible for Georgia's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). The purpose of the ICAC project is to provide to law enforcement agencies across the state a unit dedicated to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of crimes committed against children over the Internet.

In FY'05, FIU coordinated 170 ICAC investigations with other GBI work units, local agencies, and federal agencies as compared to 134 cases the previous fiscal year.

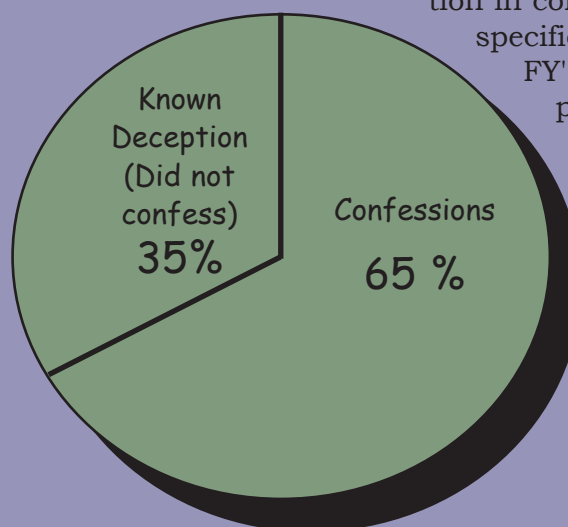
## POLYGRAPH UNIT

The GBI Polygraph Unit provides criminal justice pre-employment polygraph examinations and criminal examinations for GBI work units and other Georgia law enforcement agencies. The Polygraph Unit conducted 3,263 polygraph examinations in FY'05 – 65 percent of those tests were pre-employment exams and 35 percent were exams for criminal investigations.

### FY'05: Breakdown of Polygraph Exams



### FY'05: Confession Rate/Deception



Polygraph examinations often result in confessions by suspects who are being tested for their participation in commissions of specific crimes. In FY'05, GBI polygraphers received confessions in 65 percent of the examinations where there was indication that the subject was deceptive.

## ACCREDITATION UNIT

In November of 1998, the GBI was awarded its initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), becoming the first and only state law enforcement agency in Georgia to achieve national accreditation.

In August 2004, the GBI went through its second re-accreditation on-site visit and was found to be in compliance with all 306 CALEA standards that are applicable by function to the GBI. As a result of this on-site visit, the GBI received re-accreditation in November 2004.

## BOMB DISPOSAL TEAM

The Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) provides statewide assistance in performing render-safe procedures on explosive devices, chemicals and other volatile substances. The BDU opened 188 cases in FY'05.

The GBI has eight specially-equipped Bomb Response Trucks and 12 remote robots that are used to examine packages, perform render-safe procedures and probe structures.

The unit is in the process of enhancing its capabilities with an additional two specialized bomb disposal

vehicles, increasing the number of response vehicles to ten.

The program also is being expanded to address the growing threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Bomb technicians are certified to handle bombing situations involving hazardous materials. This expands the capability of the unit to address the threat presented by chemical and biological devices. GBI bomb technicians have received basic WMD training at the FBI Hazardous Devices School. The expansion has involved the

## INTELLIGENCE UNIT

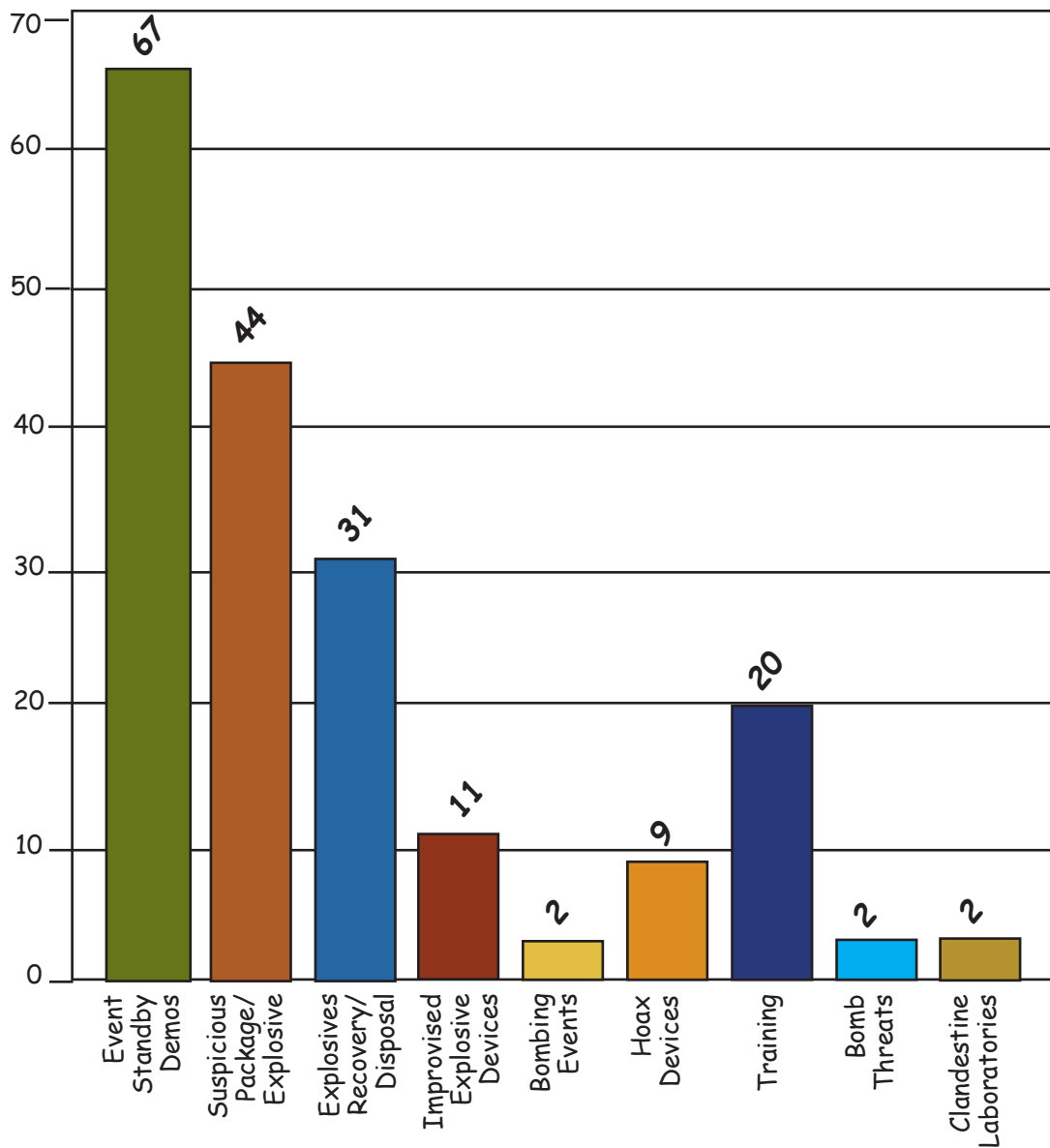
The Intelligence Unit serves as an analytical criminal information repository and provides intelligence gathering and dissemination services to agencies throughout Georgia. The unit processed 8,114 requests for intelligence information, which included 323 background checks at the request of the Governor's Office and 946 standard background checks during FY'05.

The GBI's forensic artist is assigned to this unit and during FY'05 worked with victims and investigators in gathering information to depict 189 composite drawings of criminal suspects.

---

acquisition of personal protective equipment and render-safe equipment that, when combined with existing training and knowledge, forms a capacity that has not previously existed in Georgia. This will serve as a segment of the National Domestic Preparedness Plan with relation to WMD threats.

### FY'05: Bomb Disposal-Related Investigations





## GEORGIA INFORMATION SHARING ANALYSIS CENTER

The Georgia Information Sharing & Analysis Center (GISAC) is one of three main components of the Georgia Office of Homeland Security (GAOHS). In October 2001, GISAC was created in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. GISAC provides vital support to GAOHS's broader mission—leading and directing the preparation, employment and management of state resources to safeguard Georgia and its citizens against threats or acts of terrorism and the effects of natural disasters.

GBI's Investigative Division personnel manage GISAC, provide all administrative support and account for most of its operational staffing.

GISAC is the only state-level agency dedicated solely to homeland security, anti-terrorism, and counter-terrorism operations. State law charges GISAC with the responsibility for developing and evaluating intelligence about persons engaged in terrorist activities; for investigating acts of terrorism; and for liaising with other agencies engaged in counter-terrorism operations.

As the state's terrorism intelligence "fusion center," GISAC's core functions include:

- Collecting, analyzing, and sharing information potentially related to terrorists and terrorist activities;

- Generating and appropriately disseminating useful/actionable terrorism intelligence information;
- Employing proactive investigative intelligence operations in efforts to identify terrorists and to detect and prevent threats/acts of terrorism;
- Coordinating protective security and other specialized law enforcement operations in response to known or predicted terrorist threats, terrorist attacks, and other major disasters.

During FY'05, GISAC continued its role as a national leader and model for state-level terrorism "fusion centers." Additionally, GISAC initiated several major initiatives to improve counter-terrorism and homeland security operations in the state.

In the fall of 2004, in response to the elevated terrorist-threat environment leading up to the 2004 presidential election, GISAC initiated the Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF), which created a state-level, rapid-response force, capable of quickly deploying to any location in the state and implementing specialized measures to enhance security operations at sites/events known or predicted to be targeted for terrorist attack.

Another major initiative undertaken by GISAC in FY'05 was the Georgia Terrorism Intelligence

Project (GTIP), a multi-phased program designed to link GISAC with the intelligence units of other key local, state and federal law enforcement agencies through state-of-the-art data communications systems. Once complete, the GTIP system will provide seamless, real-time connectivity between law enforcement and homeland security entities throughout Georgia and the southeast region.

Southern Shield, a project that GISAC initiated during FY'04 began as a coalition of state-level homeland security and counter-terrorism intelligence organizations representing six southeastern states, including Georgia and its five bordering states. The mission of the organization is to "promote and improve the sharing of criminal information as it relates to homeland security and to establish cooperation between southern state law enforcement agencies, in furtherance of developing a regional partnership for the prevention of terrorist acts against the United States." As the advantages of a regional collaboration were more widely recognized, Southern Shield's membership grew to 13 states during FY'05. The member agencies meet on a quarterly basis and conduct conference call sessions between meetings.



# INVESTIGATIVE Excellence

**E**very year inspectors with the Investigative Division's Command Staff nominate investigations to be considered for the prestigious GBI Director's Award for Investigative Excellence.

## DIRECTOR'S AWARD

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, agents from the **Region 7 Office (Thomson)** responded to a request to assist the Warrenton Police Department in investigating the disappearance of two small children from their residence.

At approximately 6:15 p.m., Lottie Kain, the mother of three-year-old Jonah Payne and two-year-old Nicole Payne, called Warren County 911 to report that her children were missing. The Warrenton Police Department immediately initiated a search and enlisted the help of the sheriff's office and emergency management. When the children could not be located, the police chief contacted the GBI with concerns that the toddlers may have been victims of foul play.

Special Agent Tony Williamson spearheaded the GBI's investigation into the

children's disappearance. The search for the young siblings continued through the night but was unsuccessful. The likelihood that the children did not just wander away from home but were the victims of a crime began to look more possible. The GBI Thomson office continued with its investigation and dedicated all its resources to locating the children.

On Sunday, April 24, a law enforcement search team found the bodies of the children in a pond approximately one-half mile from their residence. The cause of death was drowning. As a result of the investigation, a grand jury indicted the mother of the children for criminal neglect.

The investigation elicited nationwide news media attention and involved every agent assigned to the Region 7 Office as well as additional agents from other regional offices and officials from local public safety agencies.

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

On February 14, 2005, the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office requested assistance regarding a dismembered, burned corpse found behind an abandoned house. All the agents with the **Region 13 Office (Perry)** responded. The victim was quickly identified as Bobby Gene Wagner, 32. In less than 10 hours, agents were able to solve this "whodunit" investigation. Wagner's wife Crystal Wagner, 24, and a former co-worker, Shay Morey, 24, were charged in the death and dismemberment. The district attorney is seeking the death penalty against both defendants.

On Sunday, October 17, 2004, the **Region 9 Office (Thomasville)** was requested to assist the Colquitt Police Department with an investigation involving armed robbery and aggravated assault. The owner of a local convenience store was robbed and shot as she arrived home from closing the store for the day. Taken from her was the store's money bag filled with cash. With very little to go on, Special Agent Jeff Reed was able to locate and arrest two suspects. Both suspects later pleaded guilty and are now serving their sentences in state prisons.